

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 COA-01

COME-00 EB-07 EPA-01 NSF-01 OES-03 ACDA-05 AEC-05

AGR-05 DOTE-00 FMC-01 INT-05 JUSE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-01

CEA-01 TRSE-00 OIC-02 /117 W
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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5632

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 0506

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, SENV, CA, UN

SUBJ: LOS: US-CANADIAN NEGOTIATIONS LEAKED TO PRESS

1. THE OTTAWA CITIZEN OF FEB 8 PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE
BY CP STAFF WRITER PETER BUCKLEY AND DATELINED WASHINGTON
ENTITLED "ARCTIC SELLOUT? US SEEKS CANADIAN POLLUTION
POLICY CHANGE." ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, "CANADA HAS BEEN
ASKED BY THE US TO MODIFY ITS OFFICIAL POLICY TOWARD
PROTECTION OF ARCTIC AGAINST POLLUTION... IN RETURN FOR
CONCESSIONS BY THE US ON OTHER ASPECTS OF MARITIME LAW
THAT INTEREST CANADA..." CITING UNNAMED US OFFICIAL,
ARTICLE STATES THAT DETAILS OF PROPOSAL ARE "CLOSELY
GUARDED SECRET" AND STATES THAT US ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALISTS
AND MARITIME-LAW EXPERTS "HAVE NOT BEEN ADVISED OF
DETAILS... BUT SOME ENVIRONMENTALISTS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT
CANADA MAY CONSENT TO MODIFY HER STAND IN RETURN FOR
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AMERICAN CONCESSIONS WHICH WOULD SATISFY MOST OF

CANADA'S NEEDS IN TERMS OF ARCTIC PROTECTION."

2. BUCKLEY THEN QUOTES A SENIOR LAW OF THE SEA EXPERT WHO "ASKED TO REMAIN NAMELESS BECAUSE OF HIS ADVISORY WORK WITH THE US STATE DEPARTMENT..." TO THE EFFECT THAT OFFICIAL'S "GREATEST FEAR WOULD BE THAT CANADA MAY SELL OUT THE OCEANS IN GENERAL MERELY TO PROTECT THE CANADIAN COASTLINE."

3. ARTICLE REVIEWS BACKGROUND OF CANADIAN ARCTIC POLICY AND REPORTS ON MEETINGS IN NEW YORK IN PREPARATION FOR MARCH LOS MEETING IN GENEVA. BUCKLEY ALSO STATES THAT "OTHER WELL-PLACED OFFICIALS" HAVE CONFIRMED US PROPOSALS TO CANADIANS AND CITES "A PARTICIPANT" IN OTTAWA JANUARY DISCUSSIONS AS DESCRIBING MEETING TO HAVE BEEN "VERY USEFUL, VERY FRUITFUL."

4. COMMENT: HIGH EXTAFF OFFICIAL EXPRESSED ANNOYANCE OVER ARTICLE, SAYING HE WISHED "US ADVISORS WOULD KEEP SILENT." SUCH LEAKS ONLY MADE TASK OF NEGOTIATING LOS TREATY THAT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT, HE SAID, AND COULD BLOCK FURTHER DISCUSSIONS.

HOWEVER, HE ALSO SAID GOC IS "PLAYING IT LOW-KEY". IF ASKED ABOUT THE STORY, GOC IS PREPARED TO SAY THERE IS NO QUESTIONS ABOUT AN "ARCTIC SELL-OUT," AND THAT SUBJECT HAS BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION FOR LONG TIME. IT WILL AVOID DISCUSSING DETAILS. LUCKILY, THERE HAS BEEN NO BACKLASH TO STORY SO FAR. PORTER

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